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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

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### **H1N1 VACCINATION ADVISORY FOR HARTFORD BUSINESSES**

Thank you for inquiring about the H1N1 vaccination and distribution response plan. As you may be aware, the federal government expects that 45 million doses of the vaccine will be available by mid-October and will be made available to states at no cost. According to Governor Rell's press release, Connecticut anticipates an initial shipment of about 500,000 doses. Obviously, with the state population of close to 3.5 million people, there will not be enough vaccines for everyone. The state, however, expects to receive additional doses weekly after the first allotment.

In the meantime, the following planning scenarios have been recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) as of July 29, 2009. CT Department of Public Health (DPH) and local health department/district will closely follow these recommendations:

If there is sufficient supply of vaccine initially, vaccination efforts should focus on as many people as possible in the following target groups:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel,
- persons between the ages of 6 months through 24 years of age, and
- people from ages 25 through 64 years who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

If the initial supply of vaccine available is in limited quantities (this is the most likely scenario here in CT given the fact that we'll receive about 500,000 doses). The ACIP committee recommends that the following groups receive vaccine before others:

- pregnant women,
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age,
- health care and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact,
- children 6 months through 4 years of age, and
- children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions.

As you can see, critical infrastructure personnel do not fall in the first wave of H1N1 vaccination based on the limited supply. Once the demand for vaccine for the prioritized groups listed above has been met, the ACIP recommends expanding vaccination efforts to include everyone from ages 25 through 64 years as current studies indicate the risk for infection among persons age 65 or older is less than the risk for younger age groups. Once vaccine supply and demand for vaccine among younger age groups has been met, vaccination efforts can be expanded to include people over the age of 65.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Department of Health and Human Services with questions. Visit [www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch](http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch) for update information.

